

(a) whether any plan has been drawn by CAPART for providing financial assistance and training to rural artisans in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent by way of assistance to artisans, so far; and

(d) the criteria for selection of artisans under the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) CAPART provides financial assistance to Voluntary Organisations for rural development and empowerment of rural poor on project basis. It has been providing financial assistance to a number of Voluntary Organisations in the North-East to impart training to the rural poor artisans to raise their skills, productivity and incomes. So far 104 projects have been implemented benefiting about 4221 rural poor artisans for which Rs. 1.78 crore has been extended as assistance to the implementing Voluntary Organisations.

Declines in export of silk garments

11183. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of the Indian silk garments have declined by 20 per cent during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Draw Back and the Duty Entitlement (DEPB) to be provided by Government for promotion of silk exports, have been pending since long;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that the said problem and the

^tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

unavailability of International market are the main reasons for this decline; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by Government to maintain the export of silk garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (e) Export of Indian silk ready-made garment during April-August, 2001 amounted to Rs. 232.24 crore as against Rs. 336.31 crores worth of silk garment exported during the corresponding period of previous year and registered a decrease of 30.90% in terms of value. This declining trend seem to be mainly the result of the recessionary trend in international markets.

Department of Revenue (DoR) *vide* their Circular No. 88/2000 dated 6.11.2000 issued clarification in respect of the Exim Policy entries No. 89/74, 75 & 76 which had the effect of excluding embroidered products or those containing metallised yarn from these entries, and thereby denying DEPB benefit to exporters on export of such items. The issue was taken up, and DEPB benefit with value cap was reallowed on 1/1/2001 for silk garments and on 2/3/2001 for silk made-ups and fabrics.

Regarding drawback, the new drawback rates announced on 7th June, 2001 have reduced the entitlement of silk exporter, on which the exporters have represented. The Ministry has taken up the issue with the concerned authorities.

(f) The Government is taking several steps to increase the exports of silk products:—

(i) The Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organizing generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex Styles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufactures dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc.

- (ii) Government has rationalized value addition/Input-output norms specified under the Exim Policy extended to exporters, the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products.
- (iii) For Technological upgradation of the industry, loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available *inter alia* to the silk sector.
- (iv) Government have initiated a production programme of high quality bivoltine silk to improve quality of Indian silk and increase its productivity and cost competitiveness.
- (v) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk.

Advancing the hearing of NTC by BIFR

1184. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has agreed to advance the hearing on the matter of sick National Textiles Corporation as requested by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are other hurdles in the implementation of N.T.C. revival package; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed for early implementation of revival package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) NTC has filed submission before BIFR on 6.11.2001 for advancing the dates of hearing for early finalisation of the Rehabilitation Schemes